

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 23, 2006 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.


Claims 1 and 8 were rejected as being anticipated by Kohdaka. Claims 2-7 and 9-27 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kohdaka in view of Katzenstein. Claims 1-14 have been canceled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The cited combination is not believed to teach or suggest the features of independent claims 15 (apparatus) and 22 (method). According to these claims, multiple A/D converters are provided having respective voltage step sizes. Outputs of the converters are combined to produce a final output.

Katzenstein discloses an A/D converter a portion of which has a constant step size (linear) and a portion of which has a varying step size (non-linear). Assuming these portions may indeed be considered to be separate A/D converters by the terms of the claim, Katzenstein still fails to teach or suggest multiple A/D converters having respective voltage step sizes where of the converters are combined to produce a final output as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 15-28 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ure", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: June 22, 2006